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a Labyrinth of Technology



January 3, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing to express my support for the recently negotiated settlement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft. I am of the opinion that this lawsuit had been generated more because of Microsoft's direct competitors, rather than from any sense of altruistic justice that the government was hoping to achieve. In fact, when the courts erroneously suggested that carving Microsoft up into littler, more manageable pieces was a good idea, any concept of justice had long since departed the discussion.

At long last, there is a fair and equitable settlement in sight. It obliges Microsoft to program successive versions of Windows with a mechanism to promote non-Windows products on Windows, and gives hardware companies flexibility with what software they want to ship on their computers to dealers and purchasers. The settlement will force improved interoperability between Windows and non-Microsoft programs as well, so the settlement includes and affects every company in the IT community. It is my hope that this settlement will ultimately prevail, and that all of us can turn our collective attention back upon the task of re-strengthening our faltering economy.

Sincerely,

Alexander Altotsky
President